



*"We provide and support inclusive, life-enriching options through person-centered programs and advocacy."*

## What's New at UDS?

April 2025 | Issue 37

### Local Artist Brings Superpowers to Life



Participants in the UDS Adult Services programs are unleashing their creativity in an extraordinary way. Eight aspiring artists have embarked on a creative journey with Akron artist Dan Cuthbert. Together, they have developed characters that will be featured in a fictional story. Each team member was tasked with creating characters inspired by their own life experiences, and collectively, they formed the **UnD**efeated Squad.

Over the past several weeks, Dan has been working closely with these individuals, helping them bring their characters to life and even developing a supervillain for the heroes to confront. For instance, one participant has given their character the ability to transform into a butterfly. These superheroes will use their collective powers to defeat the story's villain in some spectacular fashion.

Dan has also helped each individual shape the images of the heroes through art as they emerge from the imaginations of group members. For those who preferred not to draw, another group member offered her artistic skills to help.

The ultimate goal is to combine everyone's contributions into a finished storybook. Keep following us to see how this heroic project unfolds!

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## Save the Date: All-Stars at the Alley 2025



Get ready to *strike* up some fun for a great cause! All-Stars at the Alley 2025 returns July 26! This year is going to be bigger and better than ever when we get the ball rolling at **Clutch Lanes and Sports Center** in Cuyahoga Falls. Get ready to join us for a night of bowling, raffles, food and fun benefiting the UDS **All-Star Training Club!**

Look for more information about this exciting event coming soon!

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## Welcome to the Team

Join us as we welcome new on-call driver, Dan Witmer.

Dan spent time in college volunteering with AmeriCorps, an organization where individuals volunteer their time and talents to address local needs. During his time with the organization, he discovered what a positive experience working with individuals with disabilities can be.





He holds a master's degree in economics from The University of Akron and has experience as a realtor and property manager.

In his free time, Dan enjoys traveling, walking in metro parks, taking care of his cat Thorin and dog Kima, and volunteering with the UDS All-Star Training Club. Welcome to the team!

## BraVo! Goes the Extra Mile



The **BraVo!** team knows how to go the extra mile! Participants of the program love helping others in the Akron community while developing practical work and social skills, so it's no wonder the Akron Marathon asked if they could help assemble gift bags for an event.

Of course, the team said yes!

The BraVo! team has been busy filling a thousand pencil cases with rulers, erasers and pencils that will be given away during the **Akron Marathon's Kids Fun Run** presented by The Mandel Family and Akron Children's Hospital. The BraVo! team is also supporting the event by putting together lanyards and credential cards this month.

"The Akron Marathon has been a great partner to BraVo! for many years," says Heidi Imhoff, BraVo! program supervisor. "We're so proud they think of us when they have available opportunities."

BraVo! is always looking for volunteer jobs. If you know of a civic or nonprofit organization looking for volunteers for one-time or long-term projects, BraVo! is happy to help.

Reach out to [Heidi Imhoff](#) for more information. Great work, team!

## April Employee of the Month



Congratulations to direct support professional David Noe of **SociAbilities** for being awarded April Employee of the Month!

Previously employed by Echoing Ridge in Canal Fulton, David joined the UDS team in 2016. "David has gone through many changes in his time at UDS," says his nominator. "I feel these changes have helped David see the positive impact he has on our individuals *and* his coworkers."

David is celebrating 20 years of marriage to his wife Erin in September. They enjoy spending their time watching their son and daughter play sports. The family lives in Canton with their dog, Carly, and his hobbies include working outside and gardening.

"I feel blessed to be surrounded by amazing staff members and individuals who can brighten my day, every day!" David says. Congrats again, David!

## Local Bands Hold Benefit Concert



On April 11, UDS rocked the house! **The Rialto Theatre** in Kenmore was host to an event benefiting the agency, where \$900 was raised to support our mission and the people we serve!

We'd like to give a shout-out to The Rialto Theatre and a special thanks to *Dave Rich & His Enablers*, *Freez-R-Burn* and *The Twanglers* for making the night so incredibly special. Thank you so much for supporting the work we do!

Missed out on the event? You can still be a rock star by [visiting our donation page](#) to show your support.

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